

Statement on the Death of Jim Grant
January 28, 1995

It was with deep sadness and regret that Hillary and I learned today of the death of Jim Grant, executive director of UNICEF. Throughout his long career, Jim Grant was a visionary leader, one of the most distinguished international public servants of our time. It was in recognition of Jim Grant's life-long contributions that I was honored to present him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom last August.

Under Jim Grant's 15 years of leadership, UNICEF has earned a reputation as one of the most effective and esteemed U.N. agencies. UNICEF retains its special place in the hearts of all Americans.

We will remember Jim Grant most for his tireless advocacy on behalf of the world's children and for pioneering low-cost, simple techniques for alleviating disease, poverty, and suffering among the neediest of children. One measure of his legacy lies in the fact that today 80 percent of children in the developing world receive immunizations compared with 20 percent in 1980, when Jim Grant assumed leadership of UNICEF.

Today we have lost a personal friend, an American hero, and champion of children throughout the world. We will all miss him.

Remarks at the National Governors' Association Dinner
January 29, 1995

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the White House, again for many of you, and for the first time for some. This is always one of my favorite evenings of the year, one of Hillary's favorite evenings, a chance to see old friends and think about old times and look to the future.

Two years ago, when I had the opportunity for the first time to host this dinner, after having been on the other end of it for 12 years, I pledged to you that I would take the experiences that we had shared together and strive to form a new partnership with the Governors and with the States. After 2 years, I think it's fair to say that we have made good on that pledge. And tonight, I want to renew

that pledge as we debate the astonishing range of opportunities and challenges that are ahead of us.

I also want to thank those of you who have gone out of your way to give me the opportunity to make good on the pledge when you thought we were slipping a little. [Laughter] And I want to thank those of you who have acknowledged what you thought we were doing right. In particular, two of the Governors, not of my party, who went through the line tonight and complimented the partnership of the Federal Government and various agencies, I appreciate very much.

I think every American now wants Government to expand opportunity and to shrink bureaucracy, to empower people to make the most of their own lives, to enhance our security but not to do those things which it ought not to do. Working in partnership with us, many of you have pioneered ways to reform health care and to reform welfare, free of Federal rules and regulations which had previously encumbered you. We have done our part to be good partners. We have reduced the deficit; we have reduced the size of the Government; we have reduced regulation in important areas.

We have also done what we could to improve our performance. I cited in the State of the Union, and I cite again, something that those of you who have had the misfortune to have disasters know, which is that the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and all those who work in the disaster area, the Department of Transportation, HUD, and others, are no longer a disaster when disaster occurs. They are there working in partnership with you, and we want to do more of that.

In that spirit now, we begin a new year of debates, working on welfare, perhaps the most important thing we can do from the point of view of all the people of all of our States, without regard to party or region or race or income.

We had a very, very good meeting yesterday with a bipartisan group of Governors, local officials, Members of Congress, and I thank those of you who participated.

The Vice President will also be presenting a second round of reinventing Government proposals which will cut further spending

and reduce the Federal role and give more responsibilities to the State. And as you know, we are proposing a tax relief package which focuses primarily on education and giving people tax reductions in return for educating their children and themselves.

I hope as we go forward, we can agree on the things which we don't think the Federal Government should be doing. And I hope we'll also be agreeing on some things we think we should do. There is a plain national interest in protecting the essential needs of the children of this country. We clearly can do some things right in a non-bureaucratic, creative way. And I think the best example of that is AmeriCorps, our national service program, which has worked closely with many of you in this room tonight.

I want to close by saluting your distinguished chair, Governor Dean, and Judy, and all of you for all you have done. For those of you who have worked with Hillary and with me over the years, and with the members of our Cabinet, particularly those who are former Governors—and I see Governor Babbitt and Governor Riley here—let me say that there is no more rewarding experience than being able to reach across the lines that divide us to feel that we are really making a difference in peoples' lives; that we are giving the American people a government that is leaner, but not meaner; one that really does help them make the most of their own lives. I think that's why we all got into this work, and if we'll just keep that in mind, I think when we're all done, we'll be very proud.

I'd like to propose a toast to the chair of the National Governors' Association and to his fine wife, and to all the Governors and their spouses tonight.

To the Governors and their families, thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:41 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Howard Dean of Vermont, Chair of the National Governors' Association, and his wife, Judith.

Remarks in a Telephone Conversation Congratulating the Super Bowl Champion San Francisco 49ers

January 29, 1995

The President. Eddie, can you hear me?
Eddie DeBartolo. Yes, Mr. President, I can.

The President. It's nice to hear your voice. Congratulations.

Mr. DeBartolo. Thank you so much, sir.

The President. I want to say to you and to George and Carmen and to all your wonderful players, it was a—the whole season was thrilling for all of us, and I think the best thing I can say about the 49ers is, I haven't met a single fan anywhere in America who resents all the success you've had. And that's a rare thing. And it's a real tribute to you, to the coach, and to the players in the way you've won and the way you've conducted yourself. We're all happy and proud of you tonight.

Mr. DeBartolo. Well, Mr. President, I can't thank you enough for taking this time, and I know from a very busy schedule. And we're all your backers, and I thank you so much from the bottom of my heart.

The President. Thank you. Congratulations to all of you.

Mr. DeBartolo. Thank you very much.

The President. I liked seeing George without his glasses. He looks good.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10 p.m. from the Residence at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to San Francisco 49ers owner Eddie DeBartolo, head coach George Seifert, and team president Carmen Policy.

Remarks at the National Governors' Association Gala

January 29, 1995

Thank you. Well, we want to thank John and Jonathan and Mary Chapin Carpenter. And at least from my part, I know how hard it is to do anything when you're hoarse. [Laughter]